Inquiry Into Canadian Performing Right Society Adjourns to May 20th

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

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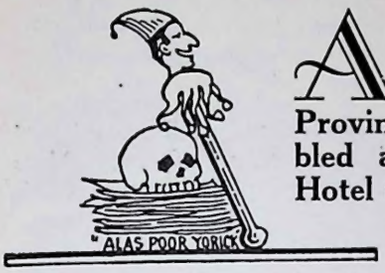
HUNDREDS PROTEST



APPROXIMATELY 225 exhibitors from all over the Province of Ontario assembled at the Royal York Hotel to consider the question of the Hepburn Government's Amusement Tax, introduced two weeks after the close of Parliament, by Order-in-Council. The Amusement Taxation becomes effective June 1st, being introduced just at the season of the year when exhibitors have their greatest competition. Hot weather, out-door sports, family car rides, picnics, baseball, soft-ball, not overlooking Daylight Saving.

The present government has been in power just about a year, too short a period to forget promises. Perhaps the stress of the present times might have a bad effect upon a government's memory, collectively and individually. But if the public, which constitutes the voters, retain their memory of promises made, they, too, may forget their promise to support the government which they voted into power, AND IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO WAIT FOR ANOTHER ELECTION TO OBJECT TO A GOVERNMENT.

On numerous occasions, Premier Hepburn during his campaign promised the people to reduce taxation. In place of reduction, there has been an increased program of taxation as proposed and levied.

Perhaps the public is in need of further education along political lines. They must eventually learn, before an election, and not following one, to discount electioneering promises.

But since all governments are no better than the people they govern, the people will have to develop a finer sense of statesmanship, a real love of country, to vote into power a government which is of the people, by the people, and for the people.

To tax a workingman five cents, or 20% of his admission price to a theatre, and the man who can afford to pay $1.50 - 10% of his admission price, certainly reveals a scale of taxation which follows the principle, "To those who have much, much shall be given". In other words, the rich man gets a 10% tax on his Amusement, and the poor man gets "soaked".

Class legislation, class taxation are in the same category. They reveal the incompetence of their perpetrators to handle the business of government. They separate and disorganize a nation, dividing its unity, its strength.

The theatres thus taxed, receive no benefits from the Amusement Tax. The Government does not improve the roadway, the street, the lighting, or parking facilities in the vicinity of theatres. The Government uses this money, taken from one particular industry for the benefit of who? and what?

Considering that the present Government has been in office for close to a year, and that during that year no parliament was convened for approximately eight months, it appears to us, the common people, that the greater percentage of our parliamentarians are superfluous, and that this cost of alleged government could be saved for Relief! But what's the use? If the Government wishes to close the theatres which have families dependent upon them, the theatres which furnish millions of dollars in wages and in taxation to Canada, the quickest and surest way for such a result is to load on the last straw to break the camel's back, namely, the Amusement Tax. The theatre which charges a 25-cent admission is not the playhouse of the rich man's pot of gold, but the playhouse through which the owner of this theatre makes a living because his son is an operator, his wife a cashier, the other son, or daughter, are ushers, while he takes tickets at the door.

RAY

RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

TEN exhibitors were selected, or elected to call upon Premier Hepburn and his Cabinet for the purpose of presenting their objections to the Amusement Tax as recently introduced by the Hepburn Government.

Those selected were His Worship Mayor P. J. Nolan of Ottawa; His Worship Mayor Wilton, Hamilton; Simon Meretsky, Palace Theatre, Windsor; Gordon Fillman, Patricia Theatre, London; Harry Alexander, Park Theatre, Toronto; Ollie Scott, Weston; E. S. Meehan, Lindsay; Thomas Ross, Bowmanville; Gordon Miller, Peterboro; J. L. Murray, Ottawa Valley Circuit; and Oscar Hanson of the Allied Theatres Limited.

Mr. Walter Haydon, as counsel, was selected to head the delegation to the Parliament Buildings. Mr. Hanson in opening the meeting at the Royal York Hotel, Wednesday noon of May 15th, stated that the conference was the most representative of any exhibitors' rally yet convened, showing the value of organization.

"It is difficult to conceive of any government imposing such a taxaiton two weeks after the close of Parliament, and through an Order-In-Council."

A taxation upon one particular industry designed to raise $1,500,000 *without any notice given to that Industry is certainly in the nature of a direct attack upon that Industry. The Industry is expected to advance to the Government taxation which it in turn is expected to collect from the public. Through this method, exhibitors become Government agents without salary, or remuneration; and incidentally government bankers, since they advance to the Government for Tax tickets, money which they have not yet collected from the public!*

In addition to becoming "unwilling collectors", exhibitors must not only finance the Government, but are called upon to become bookkeepers for the Government. Increased admission always has resulted in decreased attendance. Theatres must advance prices of admission to take care of the new taxaiton, or they must absorb the tax.

To some theatres this means giving up that which constitutes their living. This is the substance of the argument against the proposed taxation as presented by Mr. Hanson.

MAYOR NOLAN, of Ottawa, who owns three theatres, was the next speaker. He stated his theatres last year gave him a profit of $2,000. The new taxation would put him out of business. The government could have his theatres, providing they paid the taxes, interest, and gave him a small percentage on his equipment. In fact he would take a weekly salary of $35.00 and be satisfied.

It is evident that Premier Hepburn does not understand the business he is taxing. Someone sold him the idea. If the Government is in need of money to carry on, the Government can get all the money it requires at a low rate of interest, for the banks are full of money, with no outlet for same.

SIR ROBERT BORDEN, head of Barclays' Bank, Montreal, had but recently informed Mayor Nolan that banks were looking for safe investments.

A bond issue of $1,000,000 at Ottawa had 12 tenders. In 24 hours this bond issue was over-subscribed to double its amount. Just an example of money begging to be invested. The Government need not resort to taxation to secure funds to meet the requirements of government.

Among the exhibitors present were the following:

Herb Allen, Premier Theatres, Toronto.
Jule Allen, Premier Theatres, Toronto.
Gurston Allen, Premier Theatres, Toronto.
Abe Cass, Columbia Pictures, Toronto.
Chas. Hider, Majestic Theatres, Stratford.
Jack Allen, Lyric Theatre, Kitchener.
J. A. Stewart, Capitol Theatre, Peterboro.
A. P. Drohen, Capitol Theatre, Chatham.
A. E. Cauley, Capitol Theatre, Cobourg.
H. R. Hitchinson, Imperial Theatre, Sarnia.
Ray Tubman, RKO Capitol, Ottawa.
Chris. Gangas, Classic Theatre, Owen Sound.
Ernest Moule, Capitol Theatre, Brantford.
S. Hamer, Variety Theatre, Toronto.
Louis Polakoff, Kingswood Theatre, Toronto.
Abe Polakoff, Mayfair Theatre, Toronto.
Simon Cohen, Garden Theatre, Toronto.
Jack Smith, Kum-C Theatre, Toronto.
B. H. Mechanic, Hollywood Theatre, Dunnville
Jack Arthur, Famous Players, Toronto.
M. Stein, Famous Players, Toronto.
J. P. O'Loghlin, Fox Films, Toronto.
H. Bailey, Fox Films, Toronto.
M. A. Milligan, Paramount Films, Toronto.
J. L. Hunter, Paramount Films, Toronto.
Bill Baillie, Cum-Bac Theatre, Toronto.
H. Ginsler, Iola Theatre, Toronto.
S. Goldstone, Rex Theatre, Toronto.
A. Daniels, Royal Theatre, Toronto.
B. Borlack, Kitchener Theatre, Toronto.
B. Freedman, Royal Theatre, Long Branch.
M. Fallick, Lyceum Theatre, Toronto.
Axler, Strand Theatre, Toronto.
M. J. Doyle, Parkdale Theatre, Toronto.
J. E. Lynch, Runnymede Theatre, Toronto.
J. McClelland, Capitol Theatre, Toronto.
E. D. Warren, Royal Theatre, Aurora.
E. S. Meehan, Academy Theatre, Lindsay.

(Continued on page 8)

Premier Hepburn & Cabinet Turn Down Moving Picture Deputation—No Redress on Taxation.

The Digest

Observes

THE Nuisance Tax, in the form of an Amusement Tax, has been a thorn in the flesh of Motion Picture patrons for several years.

Deputations which appeared before earlier Governments, won from the Government then in Power, an elimination of the Amusement Tax for admission tickets of 25c and under.

Those who could afford to pay for higher-priced seats accepted the tax if unwillingly at least gracefully. It was the patrons of the 25c tickets and under, which dubbed the tax a Nuisance and campaigned until its Inflamed End was amputated.

The Government then in its wisdom saw the justice in the petition which pleaded that it was an injustice to tax Recreation for the working man.

Someone has evidently informed the present Government of Ontario, that Amusement which has been battling for its life during the past five years should be taxed now that it shows a sufficient profit to remain in business.

* * * *

AMUSEMENT through which thousands of shareholders have lost their capital and profits through decreased theatre attendance, and decreased admission prices, appears to be further burdened through a Special Nuisance Taxation. Amusement which has through all the years of falling profits felt the Flail of Better Pictures upon its back, compelling it to carry on, not as usual, but better than ever.

* * * *

NOW that it has for the first time in several years, close to five years, arrived at a financial stage where it becomes an important investment, now that in Canada, the Famous Players Canadian declare a 50 cents per share dividend on the common stock, the Government decides it wants $1,500,000 a year in additional revenue out of Amusement. "What we have we'll hold, but we want more", states the Government. Here's an Oliver Twist for the people's porridge-bowl! The people who are the wage-earners and those who receive the cash vouchers of the unemployed!

* * * *

THE Hepburn Government has decreed the following scale of taxation: a one cent tax for tickets nine cents to eighteen cents, this comes within the realm of taxing children. From eighteen cents to forty-five cents, a five cent tax; forty-five to eighty-five, a ten cent tax; eighty-five to one-fifty provides for a fifteen cent tax; one-fifty to two dollars involves a twenty-five cent tax and so on climbing the scale to fifty cents on a $3.00 Amusement ticket.

The greater percentage of revenue in the Amusement Field in Ontario is derived from the low-priced seats of Motion Picture theatres. Therefor, we may conclude that it is the Masses who will contribute the million and a half to the Government's Exchequer from a taxation on seats of 25 cents and under, since the higher priced seats already pay an Amusement Tax.

THE Government appears to be after the pennies of the poor. Incidentally somewhere I read that the present Government of Ontario was very friendly to Motion Pictures. Who was the wise man who said, "save me from my friends, I can take care of my enemies".

* * * *

M. F. HALTON, feature correspondent for the Toronto Daily Star, interviews Mr. Hore-Belisha, British Minister of Transport. Mr. J. J. Allen of the once famous Canadian chain of theatres nearly promoted a Mr. Belisha of England to Motion Pictures. However Halton's story is intriguing; it starts off with, "Centuries ago a family of Spanish Jews ran away from the tortures of the Inquisition and came to England. Today half the motorists in England are cursing the Inquisition because the most famous living descendant of the runaways is Leslie Hore-Belisha, dapper and enterprising British Minister of Transport, who has lowered the country's death-rate, decorated it with orange beacons, recognized the pedestrians' right to live and provided Great Britain with more jokes than anyone since the purity leagues clamped down on Mae West's quips. Gentlemen, Mr. Leslie Hore-Belisha the statesman who, they say, is bound to be premier some day".

If we know our history outside of Motion Pictures, the same thing was said of another British Jew of Spanish ancestry. Perhaps its an old Spanish custom for its brainy sons to become Prime Ministers of England.

* * * *

THE Star's correspondent starts off his interview as follows with Mr. Hore-Belisha: "Sir, is there any truth in this story we hear about you and Mae West?" "I'll tell you a better one than that," said the interviewed gentleman.

Halton states that Belisha dramatizes crusades. By the way, so does Cecil B. De Mille, in "The Crusades" now in production, what a dramatization this meeting of the Christians and the Saracens. But to return to the Spanish Inquisition's famous descendant of a refugee, "You've got to make a lot of noise before you can get people to think. Public Enemy No. 1 in this country is not the motor car but people's thoughtlessness. That's what you've got to fight. You've got to dramatize things, some people laughed when I met Eddie Cantor to discuss the road menace. They said it was below the dignity of a British Minister. Rubbish. It helped to focus attention on the fight against needless slaughter."

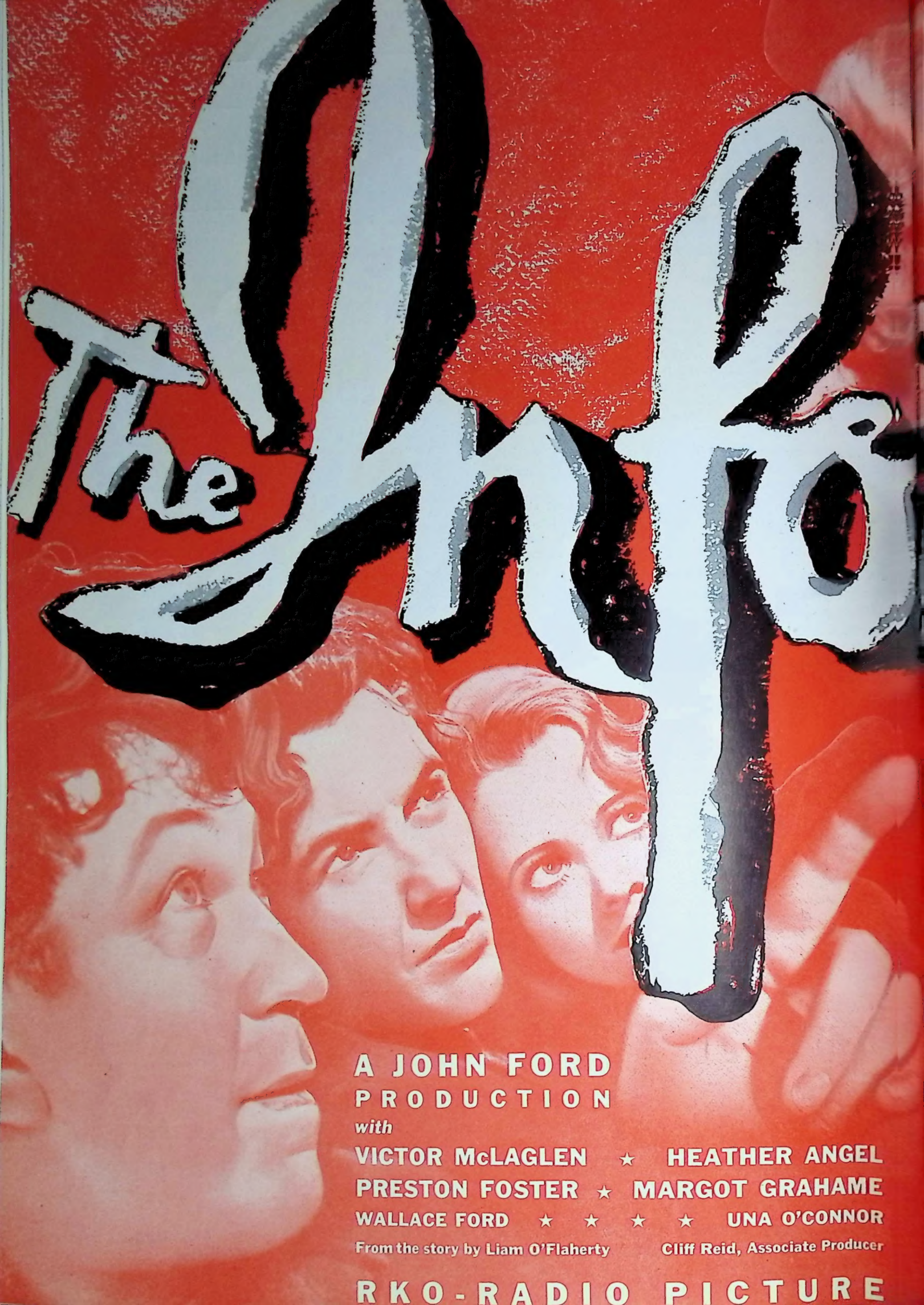
* * * *

AND now reverting back to the Mae West joke, The Digest hasn't heard it, so will someone help out? Apropos of this lady of the curves-vogue, did you read the front-page story in which Lord Byng of Vimy in speaking of Mae West said, "I found her shy?" Whatsmatter Mae, afraid of a Lord?

It was not thusly in ye good olde days of The Gaiety, London. Every day was Lord's Day for the Lords of the Gaiety and The Gaiety Beauties took a title instead of a diamond bracelet, and unto the third and fourth generation they begat Lords!

"For Every Dollar Canadian Movie Goers Spend on Movie Entertainment 93 Cents Remains in Canada"—Canadian Business Magazine.

The Informer



A JOHN FORD
PRODUCTION
with
VICTOR McLAGLEN ★ HEATHER ANGEL
PRESTON FOSTER ★ MARGOT GRAHAME
WALLACE FORD ★ ★ ★ ★ UNA O'CONNOR
From the story by Liam O'Flaherty
Cliff Reid, Associate Producer

RKO-RADIO PICTURE

RKO-RADIO PREDICTS THAT THIS PICTURE WILL BE ON EVERY CRITIC'S LIST OF THE "TEN BEST" FOR 1935

HERE IS THE START OF THE WORLD WIDE STORM OF PRAISE

Informer

"A FINE AND DISTINGUISHED MOTION PICTURE . . IN EVERY WAY A SPLENDID CINEMA ACHIEVEMENT" . . . . .

Richard Watts, Jr. in Special preview for N. Y. Herald Tribune

AND FROM HOLLYWOOD

"'The Informer' is one of the finest pictures ever to come out of Hollywood" . . . . . *Los Angeles Examiner*

"It held a preview audience spellbound! . . by far the most dynamic picture that has been shown in many months" . *Los Angeles Times*

"This picture should be listed among the greatest films ever produced" . . . . . *The Movie Mirror*

"'The Informer' is magnificent" . . . . *Hollywood Reporter*

"Strong entertainment . . . it looks like a natural" . . . . . *Hollywood Variety*

"A triumph of artistic expression" . . . *Motion Picture Daily*

Ray Presents

(Continued from page 4)

C. Querrie, Palace Theatre, Toronto.
A. R. Morton, Oriole Theatre, Toronto.
M. Stern, Avalon Theatre, Toronto.
Sam Firestone, Aster Theatre, Toronto.
Irving Field, Duchess Theatre, Toronto.
S. Ulster, Embassy Theatre, Toronto.
J. F. Myers, RKO Distributing Corp., Toronto.
Al. Ritchie, Alhambra Theatre, Toronto.
Jack Nelson, Capitol Theatre, North Bay.
Frank J. McIlwain and James Sullivan, King George Theatre, St. Catharines.
Jack Allen, Tivoli Theatre, Thorold.
J. Lever, Belsize Theatre, Toronto.
W. H. Smith, Trent Theatre, Trenton.
D. Krendel, Tivoli Theatre, Toronto.
Geo. J. Forhan, Belle Theatre, Belleville.
L. Downey, St. Clair Theatre, Toronto.
A. Easson, Oakwood Theatre, Toronto.
V. W. Fisk, Blue Water Theatre, Kincardine.
Mrs. B. Tupling, Elgin Theatre, Port Elgin.
F. H. Graham, Reenville Theatre, Walkerton.
N. Deutch, Hillcrest Theatre, Toronto.
Mrs. B. K. Moore, Moore's Theatre, Grimsby.
Wm. N. Welsman, Brighton Theatre, Toronto.
C. L. Welsman, Brighton Theatre, Toronto.
A. Patzalek, Playhouse Theatre, Toronto.
F. G. Robertson, Mayfair Theatre, Ottawa.
F. W. Robertson, Mayfair Theatre, Ottawa.
J. S. Smart, Capitol Theatre, Port Hope.
R. T. Stewart, Lyric Theatre, Hamilton.
Geo. Stroud, Palace Theatre, Galt.
Syd. B. Taube, Regent Theatre, Oshawa.
Leo. M. Devaney, RKO Distributing Corp., Toronto.
Dick Main, Grand Theatre, Sudbury.
Archie Laurie, Empire Films Ltd., Toronto.
Gordon Lightstone, Regal Films Ltd., Toronto.
J. A. McCullough, Royal George Theatre, Toronto.
H. Lester, Bonita Theatre, Toronto.
A. Lester, King Theatre, Toronto.
S. Lester, Doric Theatre, Toronto.
M. Becker, College Playhouse Theatre, Toronto..
F. Gabarino, Odeon Theatre, Toronto.
N. Rittenberg, Orpheum Theatre, Toronto.
H. Firestone, Aster and Lyndhurst Theatres, Toronto.
A. Rappaport, Hollywood Theatre, Campbellford.
H. Kay, Beverly Theatre, Toronto.
J. Stern, Avalon Theatre, Toronto.
H. Freedman, Circle Theatre, Toronto.
H. King, Grand Theatre, Toronto.
A. Wilkes, King's Playhouse Theatre, Toronto.
J. Rappaport, Crescent Theatre, Toronto.
L. Bloom, Century Theatre, Toronto.
W. Summerville, Jr., Pr. of Wales Theatre, Toronto.
R. Maynard, LaReta Theatre, Toronto.
J. Wolfe, B. & F. Theatres, Toronto.
S. Fine, B. & F. Theatres, Toronto.
S. Bloom, B. & F. Theatres, Toronto.
Ernie Marks, Marks Theatre, Oshawa.
J. Boyd, Model Theate, Oshawa.
R. Gregory, Gregory Theatre, Acton, Georgetown, Oakville, and Hamilton.
M. Starkman, Liberty Theatre, Toronto.
H. Redway, Crown Theatre, Toronto.
W. McGeichie, Sault Ste. Marie.
R. Harrison, St. Catharines.
R. Roddick, London.
J. Purvis, Sudbury.
J. Ward, Niagara Falls.
G. Morrell, Toronto.
C. Holmes, Royal Theatre, Guelph.
A. Sedgwick, Bloor Theatre, Toronto.
H. Williams, College Theatre, Toronto.
L. Lush, Berford Theatre, Wiarton.
V. Sacks, Town Hall, Harriston.
W. Cohan, Academy Theatre, Toronto.
H. Scott, LaPlaza Theatre, Toronto.
H. Heller, Grover Theatre, Toronto.
W. Werthner, Beaver Theatre, Toronto.
J. Alexander, Photodrome Theatre, Toronto.
W. Wirthner, Crystal Theatre, Toronto.
J. McLennan, Capitol Theatre, Brockville.
J. Strathy, Brock Theatre, Whitby.
F. Pringle, Ideal Theatre, Toronto.
HH. Rotenberg, Pickford Theatre, Toronto.
C. Rotenberg, Chateau Theatre, Toronto.
Rialto Theatre, Toronto.
B. Wainwright, Oxford Theatre, Toronto.
C. G. Marshall, Capitol Theatre, Cornwall.
Palace Theatre, Conwall.
E. Smithers, Capitol Theatre, Kingston.
S. Strashim, Cameo Theatre, Toronto.
Sherman Kirby, Princess Theatre, Bracebridge.
N. A. Taylor, Main Theatre, Hamilton.
College Theatre, Kitchener.
L. Appleby, Roxy Theatre, Toronto.
M. Applebaum, Regent Theatre, Toronto.
A. L. Tuck, Hume Theatre, Burlington.
S. Delaney, Delaney's Theatre, Gananoque.
M. Rumford, Kineto Theatre, Forest.
G. B. Kahn, Paramount Theatre, Hanover.
T. Moorehead, Capitol Theatre, Brampton.
Opera House, Orillia.
Rideau Theatre, Ottawa.
Capitol Theatre, Belleville.
Griffin Theatre Ltd., Capitol Theatre, Woodstock.
Griffin Theatres Ltd., Chatham Theatre, Chatham.
Griffin Theatres Ltd., Palace Theatre, St. Catharines.
Personal Representative (Ray Lewis), Griffin Theatres Ltd.
P. J. Greenlees, Princess Theatre, Woodstock.
Gordon C. Miller, Regent Theatre, Peterboro.
H. Alexander, Park Theatre, Toronto.
P. J. Nolan, Avalon, Rexy, Columbia Theatres, Ottawa.
G. J. Filman, Patricia Theatre, London.
H. E. Wilton, Strand Theatre, Hamilton.
Col. John A. Cooper, Motion Picture Distributors & Exhibitors of Canada, Toronto.
J. Scott, Weston Theatre, Weston.
C. T. Ross, Royal Theatre, Bowmanville.
S. Lent, Brock and Kenwood Theatres, Toronto.
W. S. Brady, Madison Theatre, Toronto.
Jack Nelson, Capitol Theatre, North Bay.
R. Hume, Princess Theatre, Milton.
H. Armstrong, Rex, Columbia, Avalon Theatres, Ottawa.
D. Paquin, Francais Ottawa Theatre, Ottawa. Victoria Theatre, Ottawa.
H. Paynter, Vitagraph Ltd., Toronto.
H. Braden, Kenmore Theatre, Hamilton.
G. Dunbar, Reegnt Theatre, Hamilton.
G. Williams, S. Gizzie, F. Berriman, Hollywood Theatre, Niagara Falls.
H. Masters, United Artists Corp., Toronto.
James Duncan, J. Logan, Liberty Theatre, Amherstburg.
W. J. Stewart, Madison Theatre, Toronto.
R. Murphy, Eastwood Theatre, Toronto.
L. Payne Princess Theatre, Listowel.